GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:252
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013
FIRE IN COALFIELDS
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the perennial problems arising out of mine fire in the coalfields of Jharia and Raniganj;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any master plan has been prepared to douse the fire; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the success achieved so far in extinguishing the fire in these coalfields?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SRI PRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) in respect to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 252 for reply on 27.8.2013 asked by Shri Nama Nageswara Rao.

(a)&(b): Mining areas in Jharia Coalfields, within the leasehold area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited are faced with problems of fire and subsidence due to the century old history of mining in these coal fields. History of fire in Jharia Coalfields dates back to 1916 when the first incidence of fire was reported from XIV seam of Bhowrah colliery. Since then a number of fire incidence have occurred in underground workings, opencast pits and in opencast overburden debris .According to the investigations made after nationalization, 70 fires were known to exist in Jharia Coalfields in the lease hold area of Bharat Coking Coal, covering an area of 17.32 Sqkm. Subsequently seven more fires were identified making the total tally of fires to 77.

(c): A Master Plan for dealing with Fire, Subsidence & Rehabilitation in the lease hold area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Limited has been approved by the Government on 12.8.2009 with an indicative fund requirement of Rs. 7112.11 crore for Jharia Coalfields (JCF) and Rs. 2661.73 crore for Raniganj Coalfields (RCF).

d): Originally, during nationalization, the surface area affected by fire was approximately 17.32 sq. km. in JCF. Massive efforts were subsequently made for implementation of fire projects by introducing the best technology. As a result, the affected surface area was reduced from 17.32 sq. km to 8.90 sq. km. and blockage of coal was reduced from 1864Mt to 1453 Mt. More over 10 fires were completely liquidated.

Under Master Plan of JCF, total 45 fire schemes have been proposed for dealing with 67 fire sites spread in 41 collieries/mines. Total surface area affected by fire as delineated in master plan is 8.9sq .Km. Out of 45 fire schemes, 28 are envisaged to be taken up in Phase-I i.e. first 5 years and remaining 17 are envisaged to be taken up in Phase-II i.e. next 5 years. Till date, 11 fire schemes have been prepared out of which 4 schemes have been completed and the rest are under different stages of execution. For expediting the fire dealing process, excavation methods have been resorted to by deploying HEMM at various mines of BCCL.

Central Mine Planning and Design Institute limited (CMPDIL) has been engaged by Coal India Limited for monitoring coal mine fire based on 'thermal infa red Satellite data and mine fire information system'. CMPDIL has assessed that the fire area has further reduced from 8.9 Sqkm to7.116 Sqkm.

In Ranigunj Coalfields all the seven sites identified with surface fires as identified in the Master Plan have been extinguished.